

About the Earth and Space Sciences Reference Tables

The Earth and Space Sciences Reference Tables (ESSRT), 2024 edition should be used in the classroom beginning in the 2024-2025 school year. The first examination for which these tables will be used is the June 2025 Regents Examination in Earth and Space Sciences. The ESSRT contains information that students are expected to locate and apply in multiple contexts to be used as evidence, in support of developing conceptual understanding of the three dimensions referenced in the Performance Expectations (PE), but not necessarily memorize. Teachers should use these reference tables in instruction throughout the Earth and Space Sciences course and to familiarize students with the content and Geologic/Geographic features specific to New York State. The table of contents provided on page 1, organizes the ESSRT by topic and the primary PE that specific information and/or the table(s) is aligned to.

How were the Earth and Space Sciences Reference Tables developed?

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) convened a group of NYS science educators to develop the initial draft of the Earth and Space Sciences Reference Tables. In developing the ESSRT, participants considered the Performance Expectations, and how each table could be used to support conceptual understanding. This process was repeated for all Performance Expectations in the course. Not all Performance Expectations lend themselves to evidence from the tables, graphs, maps and infographics included in this new version of ESSRT, and thus are not included. The Office of State Assessment collaborated with State scientists from the NYS Museum to produce select tables and maps in the ESSRT and provide the most up-to-date data and scientifically accurate information. The draft ESSRT then went through additional rounds of review and edits from NYS-certified educators, content specialists, and assessment experts under NYSED supervision.

How can the ESSRT be used in Instruction?

With the transition to the New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards (NYSP-12SLS), supporting shifts in instruction and assessment necessitates a change in the functionality of the ESSRT. Such updates include but are not limited to how students will: use evidence from multiple sources to construct explanations, engage in arguments from evidence, and use a model to explain scientific ideas as opposed to reading the tables to identify the correct answer.

	<p>assessment of the Weather and Climate PEs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• *Please note, all reference materials needed for the Investigation – The Sky is the Limit, are included in the Weather Information Packet for that Investigation. The ESSRT will not need to be utilized.
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NYSED does not provide printed copies of the regular or translated-edition reference tables. It is important that printer settings such as full, actual size, or 100% are used when printing any of the ESSRT components to ensure their accuracy.